

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 9.10.02

The 22nd meeting of the Project Approval Board for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 9.10.02. A list of participants is annexed.

Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Plan 2002-2003 of West Bengal.

1.1 A brief presentation on the plans proposed was made by the State. Project Director, West Bengal. The highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- The literacy in the State is 69.22% with the female literacy being 60.22%.
- Aanganwadi centres (AWCs) are the most important interventions in the pre-primary education. Of the 41.42 lakh children in the age group 3-5, 20.45 lakhs are enrolled in 50424 AWCs
- Out of the total child population in 5-9 age-group of 89.68 lakhs, 10.57 lakhs are out-of-school. The GER is 108 and NER 88. The State plans to enrol 3.83 lakhs in the regular existing primary schools, 1.62 lakhs in EGS centres and 5.12 lakhs in bridge courses. The EGS centres would be in the form of Shishu Shiksha Kendras (SSK) and Shikshalaya Prakalpa (SP). The SSKs are community driven schools with teachers appointed by the community. While these teachers have the same academic qualifications as the regular teachers they do not have pre-service qualifications. The SSKs have parity with regular schools and the State has already issued notification allowing lateral transfer of children between regular schools and SSKs. The SPs are NGO run learning centres, which have to meet the minimum four hour teaching time.
- Out of the total child population in 11-14 age-group of 90.83 lakhs, 28.93 lakhs are out-of-school. The State plans to enrol 11.04 lakhs in the regular existing upper primary schools, 2.78 lakhs in EGS centres and 13.11 lakhs in bridge courses. The EGS centre would be in the form of MSKs and NGO run centres. These are still at the planning stage and have not been made operational. General clearance has been given and now the permission of Zilla Parishad is being taken. Preference would be given to MSKs and only if it is not possible, NGO run centres would be thought of for upper primary. The Secretary (EE&L) cautioned that NGOs should be used only for interventions like bridge courses, etc. and not be used as a substitute for regular schools. JS (EE) pointed out that the number of upper primary schools has remained stagnant in the State over years and that's why the State has decided to rely on the MSKs now.

1.2 Secretary (EE &L) wanted to know about the reasons for poor PTR in the State. SPD explained that against the requirement of 2.6 lakh teachers, the sanctioned posts are only 1.8 lakhs and the actual number of teachers in position are 1.54 lakhs. Principal Secretary (Education) WB clarified that the State has taken active steps to fill up the vacant posts. The recruitment commission has been set up and every year 7000 teachers would be recruited. However, the State has taken a policy not to create any further posts of teachers and so the adverse PTR of 1:76 would remain. JS (EE) stated that such a PTR would affect quality of teaching in the schools and the State should take a fresh look at the policy. Secretary (EE&L) added that with adverse PTR, the State should at least concentrate on giving professional qualifications to teachers being recruited in SSKs and MSKs. Dr. Yadav of the appraisal team stated that with DIETs virtually non-existent in the State, it would be difficult to give professional qualifications to these teachers. There are no training programmes in the State and SCERT is also ineffective. Secretary (EE &L) suggested that the State should consult NCTE on this. NCTE has issued certain guidelines on teachers, and if it states that the State's teachers do not fulfil these guidelines then it would be difficult to fund the salaries of these teachers under SSA. So the state should evolve some training mechanism,

perhaps in distance mode, in consultation with NCTE. It was clarified by NCTE that the State has been given 5 years relaxation for fulfilling the NCTE norms. Principal Secretary, WB stated that the Finance Department has cleared 325 posts for DIETs and is now awaiting Cabinet's approval.

1.3 Principal Advisor, Planning Commission stated that the State, while being free to take a policy decision not to open schools, should provide an education system which should provide valid schooling and should establish an equivalence of the alternate schooling so developed with the existing formal system. Also the PTR of 1:76 was not acceptable and should be brought to 1:40. This becomes more important in the light of elementary education becoming a fundamental right. From now the monitoring should be done of not only the financial parameters but also on the physical progress.

1.4 The State was asked to prepare the perspective plans early. The perspective plans would be appraised by a team to be sent some time in January-February. By that time the State should show some progress on the DIET front and should focus the strategies related to out-of-school children. It was felt that it would be unrealistic to think of putting 5.12 lakh children in the 5-9 age group in bridge courses alone.

1.5 Based on the plans prepared, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions thereon, following decisions were taken regarding the Annual Plan of 2002-03:

- i) In the non-DPEP districts, EGS centres for 15999 children and bridge courses for 52075 children in primary sections were approved. In addition grant for 251384 children to be enrolled in existing SSKs was also approved. However, in the DPEP districts no primary centres or bridge courses were approved. The release of funds for these courses would be based on the exact details to be furnished by the State. The state can examine the possibility of upgrading the SSKs into schools in the coming years.
- ii) In the non-DPEP districts, bridge courses for 99666 children in upper primary sections were approved. In the DPEP districts bridge courses for 93667 children were approved. The release of funds for these courses would be based on the exact details to be furnished by the State
- iii) SLIP package in the non-DPEP districts, as divided under different heads by the appraisal team was approved. VRPs were deemed to be teachers, which the state is eligible to as per the SSA norms and teacher grant and salary were admitted under respective heads. Workshops, etc. were admitted under management cost and research grant. The additional learning material was permitted under the innovative head.
- iv) Maintenance grant was permitted for DPEP districts also since the same had not been provided under DPEP.
- v) Amount permitted for CLRC and CRC was restricted to the total amount which the State would have been eligible for BRCs and CRCs if it had gone for BRC at the CD block level. The number of personnel under CLRC and CRC has been restricted to 20 per block.
- vi) Free textbooks to below poverty line children from Class VI to VIII onwards were allowed, as sought by the State Govt. However, the State Govt. was urged to have a relook at this policy so that benefits could be extended to all girls and SC/ST students as per SSA norms.
- vii) SIEMAT was not approved this year and should be included in the perspective plan.
- viii) Major and Minor repair, apart from maintenance grant, book grant, library grant, laboratories, etc and non-civil works child friendly elements which are not eligible under SSA norms were not approved.
- ix) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for an amount of Rs 20599.97 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex I.

- x) Since the State had not spend any amount from the funds released last year, no spill over could be sanctioned this year.
- xi) It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions:
- (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
 - (b) First instalment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State Government.
 - (c) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
 - (d) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing the salary.
 - (e) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants and other such expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.
 - (f) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
 - (g) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.
 - (h) All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy

Item No.2: Consideration of Perspective Plan and Annual Action Plan 2002-2003 of Kerala

2.1 The Secretary, Education Kerala made a brief presentation on the educational scenario and the planning exercise taken by the State. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- SSA is being taken very seriously by the Government of Kerala and the Panchayati Raj system is closely involved in the entire process.
- The planning process has been a decentralised one with Panchayats being involved in the task. House to house survey has been conducted, which has been supplemented by some studies undertaken on special focus groups to identify the nature of problems.
- Only Government and aided schools have been taken into consideration. The aided schools are effectively similar to the Government schools and satisfy the criteria given out by Government of India.
- Of the fourteen districts in the State, 6 had already been covered under DPEP.
- There are 1183 school-less habitations and the State has proposed EGS habitations for these. These would cater to 17282 out-of-school children. Principal Advisor, Planning Commission, stated that there was a mismatch between the number of centres and the out-of-school children in case of some districts.

2.2 On behalf of the appraisal team, Prof. Awasthi stated that the State has done the household survey and based on this has identified 3.75 lakh out-of-school children. The State is closing down uneconomic schools but additional classrooms may be required in some districts where the schools are overcrowded. Further, many schools are in semi-permanent structures and require permanent buildings. A number of

Government schools are functioning only in rented buildings due to space constraint. AFA stated that the appraisal note states that the plans are not satisfactory, but it was clarified by the appraisal team that the State has since rectified the defects.

2.3 Principal Advisor, Planning Commission stated that the State should take urgent steps to redeploy the protected teachers who are earning salary without doing any work. They could be redeployed in the new BRC and CRC posts being created. However, the Secretary Education stated that most of the protected teachers are in the aided schools and cannot be redeployed in the BRCS or CRCs. Principal Advisor stressed that the redeployment should be over before the next review of the State by the Planning Commission.

2.4 JS (EE) stated that the State has gone back on a number of interventions related to pedagogic interventions introduced under DPEP. It has introduced an evaluation system at Class 5 stage, which did not reflect the new class room practices. Because of this evaluation, the teachers have gone back to the old methods of teaching. Principal Advisor Planning Commission wanted the State to evaluate the evaluation process and find out if it is compatible with the learning system. If the state feels that the new pedagogic practices under DPEP are inferior to the older one, then it should clearly state so, instead of undermining it through a defective evaluation system.

2.5 Based on the plans prepared, remarks of the appraisal team and discussions thereon, it was decided to approve the perspective plan in principle as per details given in Annex II. However, annual plans would have to be submitted every year based on the provision of the perspective plan, achievement of previous annual plans, new developments and remarks of appraisal and supervision missions. Following decisions were taken regarding the Annual Plan of 2002-03:

- i) 15 new primary schools were approved, along with TLE grant, as per the recommendation of the appraisal team. However, no new teachers were recommended since the State has excess teachers in the form of protected teachers. No new upper primary schools were approved.
- ii) 5226 EGS centres for primary and 7548 for upper primary were approved. However, the State should give exact details before funds could be released under this head.
- iii) The proposals for innovation fund were approved as per the recommendation of the State, but the State should give specific details before any fund release under this head could be given.
- iv) It was clarified that the free textbooks could not be provided to Class I from the SSA funds since the State has been already providing this earlier.
- v) Other items like research grant, school grant, teacher grant, BRCs, CRCs, IED, teacher training, community training, maintenance grant, civil works, etc. were approved as per the recommendation of the appraisal team.
- vii) Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total Annual Plan 2002-03 for a amount of Rs 8472.762 lakhs was approved as per details given in Annex III.
- viii) Since no information was given on the details of expenditure of previous year, no decision was taken on the interventions sanctioned in previous years which would spill over this year.
- ix) It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions:
 - (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
 - (b) First instalment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State Government.
 - (c) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.

- (d) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants and other such expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.
- (e) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (f) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.
- (g) All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy

3.0 The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

**ATTENDANCE OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD HELD ON
9.10.2002 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY (EE&L).**

1. Shri S.C. Tripathi, Secretary(EE&L) Chairman
2. Shri V. Lakshmiratan, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission
3. Shri Sumit Bose, JS(EE), MHRD
4. Dr. Meena Gautam, Dy. Secretary (representative of Chairperson, NCTE)
5. Shri R.L. Raichandani, AFA (representative of F.A., MHRD)
6. Dr. S.K. Yadav, Reader, DTEE, NCERT, New Delhi (Representative of Director, NCERT)
7. Dr. S. Mukhopadhyay, Sr. Fellow, NIEPA (Representative of Director, NIEPA)

In Attendance

1. Shri N.L. Basak, Principal Secretary, School Education Deptt., West Bengal
2. Shri M.N. Roy, Secretary Panchayat & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal
3. Shri S. Kishore, SPD, DPEP & SSA, West Bengal
4. Shri D.K. Pal, Addl., SPD, DPEP & SSA, West Bengal
5. Shri P.Mara Pandian, Secretary Education, Government of Kerala
6. Shri S. Sukumaran, Director, DPEP, Kerala
7. Smt. Indu Datta, Director, (Planning Commission)
8. Dr. Swarna Gupta, Reader, NCERT
9. Dr. O.N. Awasthi, Professor, R.I.E., NCERT, Bhopal
10. Shri K. Gopalan, Consultant, TSG
11. Shri Subhash Gujaria, Consultant, TSG
12. Ms. Sarika Mishra, Consultant, TSG
13. Ms. Panna Das, Consultant, TSG
14. Ms. Amita Singla, Consultant, TSG
15. Ms. Prerna Gulati, Dy. Secretary (EE), MHRD
16. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director (MHRD)
17. Shri K.J. Diyva Prasad, US (EGS)
18. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US (EE)
19. Shri S.K. Kapoor, US (MHRD)

Annex II

District-wise outlay for perspective plan for Kerala

(Rs lakhs)

District	Civil Works	Management	Others	Total
Alapuzzah	278.25	134.50	1890.87	2303.62
Ernakulam	394.50	74.21	2401.06	2869.77
Iddukki	160.05	56.00	1184.60	1400.65
Kannur	1308.10	135.10	3115.55	4558.75
Kasargod	278.50	132.00	1925.74	2336.24
Kollam	1450.60	121.45	3344.58	4916.63
Kottayam	671.10	128.58	2642.03	3441.71
Kozhikode	1157.30	34.00	2921.64	4112.94
Mallapuram	1281.61	168.00	4032.89	5482.50
Palakkad	977.60	0.00	2310.41	3288.01
Pathanmiththa	290.60	0.00	1174.74	1465.34
Thiruvananthapuram	277.70	67.50	3887.02	4232.22
Thrissur	577.70	176.90	2482.76	3237.36
Wayanad	420.10	16.00	887.98	1324.08
Total	9526.15	1304.15	38197.77	49028.07